

UA 18/02

Fear for**MEXICO Pedro Raúl López (m), President of Chiapas State Human Rights Commission (CEDH)**

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The president of Chiapas State Human Rights Commission, Pedro Raúl López, has been threatened and harassed, and on 14 January shots were reportedly fired at his house. Amnesty International is concerned that his life is in danger. The threats and attack may be linked to his work investigating human rights violations by public officials in the state.

Two men in a pickup truck were apparently seen driving around the area of Pedro Raúl's house, in the La Salle quarter of the town of San Cristóbal, at about 3am. As they approached Pedro Raúl's home, both men fired at the house, one of the bullets passing through his daughter's bedroom window.

The *Comisiones Estatales de Derechos Humanos* (CEDH), State Human Rights Commissions, are appointed and funded by state authorities, and are quasi-autonomous. The quality and independence of CEDHs vary greatly in Mexico's 31 federal states.

According to local non-governmental organisations, the Chiapas CEDH improved considerably after Pedro Raúl López took office, in June 2001. He has been involved in investigating cases including alleged torture of indigenous people by state police. In the past few months he has reportedly received anonymous phone calls where the callers have stayed silent and then hung up. He has been followed by unidentified vehicles with blacked out windows, and his house has been watched.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In December 2001 Pedro Raúl López wrote to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, to say that he feared he was in danger because of the threats he had received. The United Nations has asked the Mexican government for more information on the case.

Pedro Raúl López has reported the 14 January shooting to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, *Procuraduría de la República* (PGR), and the State Attorney General, *Procurador General de la Justicia del Estado* (PGJE). The *Centro de Derechos Humanos 'Fray Bartolomé de las Casas'* (CDHFBC), 'Fray Bartolome de las Casas' Human Rights Centre, has appealed to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights to ask the Mexican government to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the safety of Pedro Raúl López.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Pedro Raúl López and his family, and asking the federal authorities to ensure that they are not harmed;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the 14 January shooting at Pedro Raúl's house, and the continuing intimidation he has suffered, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of the Republic

General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
Procurador General de la República  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Reforma Norte esq. Violeta 75  
Col. Guerrero, Delegación Cuauhtemoc  
México

**Telegrams: Procurador General, México D. F., México**

**Fax: (+52 55) 5346 2776**

**Salutation: Señor Procurador General/Dear Attorney General**

Attorney General of Chiapas

Mariano Herrán Salvatti  
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Chiapas  
Libramiento Norte s/n  
Infonavit el Rosario  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas  
México

**Telegram: Procurador, Chiapas, México**

**Fax: + 52 9(61) 616 57 24**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Señor Procurador**

Governor of Chiapas

Pablo Salazar Mendiguchia  
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas  
Palacio de Gobierno del Estado de Chiapas  
Av. Central y Primera Oriente  
Colonia Centro, C.P. 29009  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas  
México

**Telegram: Gobernador, Chiapas, México**

**Fax: + 52 9(61) 612 09 17**

**Salutation: Dear Governor / Señor Gobernador**

**COPIES TO:**

Centro de Derechos Humanos  
"Fray Bartolome de las Casas"  
Calle Cuauhtémoc 12, Colonia Centro Histórico  
San Cristóbal de las Casas,  
CP 29200, Chiapas  
MEXICO

**Fax: + 52 9(67) 67 8 35 51**

and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 February 2002.